(b) if so, the details of these projects;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these projects could not make any progress; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Anti - Collision Device in the Railways

288. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways has developed an Anti-Collision Device (ACD) to avoid collisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what would be the cost of installation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Anti-Collision Devices (ACDs) are microprocessor based communication devices, fitted on locomotives, brake vans and located in stations and level crossings. These give distinct identification to the locomotives and brake vans and using the global positioning system and angular deviation count principle, detect "collision like" situations and initiate application of brakes in the locomotives in a range of 3 kms. The ACDs also help in detecting train partings and initiate warning signals at level crossings. Field trials of ACDs are being undertaken. The ACDs will be considered for provision on Indian Railways on satisfactory performance during the trials and availability of funds.

(c) The total anticipated cost of installation of ACDs on IR is Rs.1600 crores, approximately.

Linking of Barak Express and Cachar Express with Guwahati Express

289. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a meeting with Members of Parliament from

the North-Eastern Region some time back, the Ministers and the Members (Traffic) Railway Board, has assured that the Barak Express and Cachar Express would be linked with Guwahati Express, so as to avoid inconvenience of mid-journey transhipment;

(b) if so, whether the said proposal has since been implemented, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) In the meeting with the Members of Parliament from the North-Eastern region, assurance regarding augmentation of 5811/5812 Lumding-Silchar Barak Valley Express and 5801/5802 Lumding-Silchar Cachar Express and that regarding connection for Guwahati, at Lumding, with Cachar and Barak Valley Expresses were made.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The timings of 5802 Silchar-Lumding Cachar Express have been changed w.e.f. 01.01.2002 to provide connection to 4055 Guwahati-Delhi Brahmaputra Mail and 5930 Dibrugarh Town-Chennai Egmore Express, at Lumding. 5812 Barak Valley Express is already providing connection to 5666 Dimapur-Guwahati Express at Lumding. However, mid-journey transhipment is unavoidable due to change of gauge at Lumding.

Prohibition on smoking in South Central Railway

290. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Central Railway has issued orders prohibiting smoking at Railway premises;

(b) what is the definition given to the term premises; and

(c) what is the implementing agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The premises include the headquarters of the Railways, all office buildings of the railways, railway stations, railway platforms and other premises where there are railway establishments.